

I would like to urge the Commission to preserve some level of Morse Code Proficiency for the Amateur Radio Service. The current Morse Code Proficiency examination requires a very basic level of competence and is not unreasonable. While more recently developed modes of communication are extremely attractive, the simplicity of Morse Code and the equipment required to facilitate such communications continue to make it a viable and robust alternative.

In situations where limited resources are available, it is usually possible to implement some sort of Morse Code sending device. None of the other modes can make this claim. Beginners can usually build their own Morse Code radios at little expense and complexity. This ease of entry makes the retention of the Morse Code Proficiency requirement most attractive for candidates with limited financial resources.

The ability to send and receive Morse Code in so many other ways has been helpful in many emergency and rescue situations. The elimination of the Morse Code proficiency requirement would lessen the chance that such a message would ever be understood.

The Commission should retain the minimal level of Morse Code Proficiency required now for access to the High Frequency Portions of the Amateur Radio bands. Entry level license classes do not require such proficiency. Operators hoping to expand their abilities should be able to master this low level of Morse Code proficiency as well as more complex technical and legal requirements.

Respectfully,

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